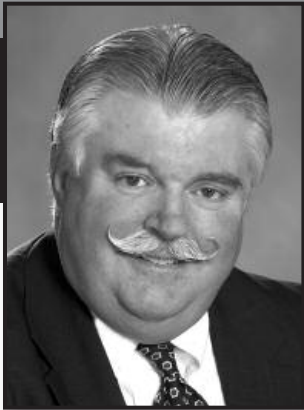


back-to-school

UPDATE

STATE SENATOR 7th District

Bruce Patterson



Address: P.O. Box 30036
Lansing, MI 48909-7536

Phone: 517.373.7350

Toll-Free: 866.262.7307

Fax: 517.373.9228

E-Mail: senbpatterson@senate.michigan.gov

Website: www.SenatorBrucePatterson.com

Senate reform plan to help kids

All of our children deserve the opportunity to succeed and excel in school. Yet, too many of our kids are stuck in schools that have been failing the community for years.

Senate Republicans recently introduced an exciting new plan to bring more control to parents and teachers, and help kids achieve.

Called Neighborhood Public Schools, the plan creates independent public schools that allow for more flexibility and local control. Current traditional public schools could be converted to independent schools with a majority vote of the teachers and parents in the building.

A new school could be an Early Childhood Learning Center, a cyber school, a college prep core, a dropout recovery center or a career education high school, to name a few examples.

Each school would have a sponsor, such as a public university, a mayor, or an intermediate school district, to make sure stringent standards were met, and all state and federal laws were followed.

In putting this plan together, we looked around the country to find programs that were proven to work. This package represents the best-of-the-best of those programs. Certainly, our kids deserve nothing less.

You can follow the Neighborhood Schools legislation, SB 636-639, at www.legislature.mi.gov.

Senate supports farm-to-school program

Legislation enacted into law in late 2008 helps take aim at school nutrition and child obesity.

Public Acts 315, 343 and 344 of 2008 encourage Michigan schools to use food grown or processed in Michigan to help children eat healthier.

Under the program, the state departments of Education and Agriculture will work together to increase the purchase of Michigan agricultural products for school breakfast programs and lunches.

What a great way to help our local growers and provide our children with fresh, healthy food!



Protecting children online

In today's electronic world, our cyber kids are adept at a dizzying array of communication tools – social networking, instant messaging, texting and more.

Yet the same sites that keep kids connected can attract predators and other bad actors.

The good news is that most kids are safe online. The better news is that there are steps you and your family can take to reduce the risks.

Help protect your kids with these basic cyber safety tips:

- **Remind your child not to give out personal information;**
- **Keep the computer in a common area;**
- **Use parental filters and controls; and**
- **Maintain access to your child's online account.**

You can also register your family's e-mail addresses, instant messenger IDs, and mobile text message addresses at the Michigan Children's Protection Registry. The free registration helps protect kids from receiving inappropriate messages for a product or service that a minor cannot legally purchase.

This secure database was created in 2005 under Senate legislation passed into law. Find out more at www.ProtectMIChild.com.

RESOURCE GUIDE FOR PARENTS

(Website addresses and phone numbers subject to change)

Michigan School Report Cards

<https://oeaa.state.mi.us/ayp/>

School Matters (Analysis of School District Performance)

www.schoolmatters.com

School Violence Hotline

1-800-815-TIPS

www.michigan.gov/safeschools

Michigan Cyber Safety Initiative

www.michigan.gov/csi

Michigan Department of Education

www.michigan.gov/mde

Michigan Merit Exam (Test Results and FAQ)

www.michigan.gov/mme

New High School Graduation Requirements

www.michigan.gov/highschool

Michigan E-Library (MeL Kids)

www.mel.org

U.S. Government Kids Site

www.kids.gov

MI Child (Health Insurance for Uninsured Children)

1-888-988-6300

Swine Flu Information for Parents

www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/parents

Michigan Promise Scholarship

www.michigan.gov/promise

Michigan Education Trust

www.setwithmet.com

1-800-MET-4-KID

Michigan Education Savings Program

www.misaves.com

1-877-861-MESP

Free Publications Available

The return of the school year provides a great opportunity to teach our leaders of tomorrow the importance of civic education. In my office, I maintain a collection of publications to help teachers, students and their families learn about the Michigan Constitution, the legislative process and the organization of state and local government. If you are interested in receiving this material, please fill out the order form below and return to my office. Or e-mail the office at senbpatterson@senate.michigan.gov.

- ☐ Michigan Constitution ☐ For the People, By the People ☐ Citizen's Guide to State Government
☐ The Legislative Process in Michigan, A Student's Guide

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

E-Mail: _____

MAIL TO: SENATOR BRUCE PATTERSON, P.O. BOX 30036, LANSING, MI 48909-7536